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Message Text

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42
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 /042 W
---------- 058863
R 121048Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6606
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 0147

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR LE XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN--LEBANON

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH KING JANUARY 10, HE DISCUSSED LEBANON WITH ME. HE REVIEWED FOR ME REPORTS OF RECENT FIGHTING AND HIS CONCERN THAT CHRISTIANS WERE NOW PUSHING PALESTINIANS TO POINT WHERE THE PALESTINIANS HAD TO ACT IN A WAY WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO ISRAELI INTERVENTION. ALTERNATIVELY, PALESTINIANS MIGHT BE FORCED TO SEEK GREATER HELP FROM SYRIANS EITHER THROUGH SAIQA OR DIRECTLY WHICH WOULD IN TERM BRING IN ISRAELIS.

2. KING SEES THE NEW CHRISTIAN -PALESTIAN CONFRONTA-TION AS TURN FOR THE WORSE AND ONE THAT COULD FORCE THE SITUATION COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL WITH RESPECT TO SYRIAN-ISRAELI INTERVENTION. AS A RESULT, DANGERS TO HIM AND THE REGION IN HIS VIEW ARE SERIOUSLY
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HEIGHTENED.

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3. I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ANY IDEAS ABOUT WHAT COULD
BE DONE IN CONSTRUCTIVE TERMS. HE SAID HE HAD NOTHING
TO SUGGEST. HE IS CLEARLY AGONIZED AND FRUSTRATED BY
A SITUATION OVER WHICH IT SEEMS NEITHER HE NOR ANYONE
ELSE CAN EXERCISE CONTROL BUT WHICH HAS INCREASING POTENTIAL
FOR INVOLVING HIM AND HIS COUNTRY IN A DANGEROUS COURSE
FOR THE FUTURE.

4. HE ASKED ME THE SAME QUESTION ABOUT CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS.
I SAID THAT IN MY RECENT CONSULTATION I HAD REVIEWED
THE SITUATION INFORMALLY IN THE DEPARTMENT, BUT HAD NOTHING TO
OFFER BEYOND WHAT HE KNEW OF OUR STATEMENTS CONCERNING
INTERVENTION BY ANY OUTSIDE PARTY. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED
THOSE STATEMENTS AND HAD ALSO IN RECENT CONTACTS WITH
ASAD TRIED TO REINFORCE THE SAME VIEW WITH SYRIANS.

5. HE CONTINUED THAT HE WAS DISTURBED THAT OUTSIDE
POWERS SUCH AS LIBYA AND IRAQ WERE STILL STIRRING THE
POT. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THE
EGYPTIANS WERE ALLOWING THE CONTEST WITH SYRIA TO SLOP
OVER INTO LEBANON. IF THIS WERE THE CASE, HE THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS AND WOULD BRING THE SYRIANS
CLOSER TO THE POINT OF INTERVENTION IF THEY THOUGHT THE
EGYPTIANS WERE TRYING TO ONE UP THEM OVER LEBANON. I
SAID I HAD NOTHING AT MY FINGERTIPS TO CONFIRM HIS
FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT BUT WOULD CONVEY THEM TO
WASHINGTON FOR ANY THOUGHTS THEY MIGHT HAVE. (SUBSE-
QUENTLY, I HAVE SEEN CAIRO 00214 WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO USE
FOR BACKGROUND TO BRIEF HIM IF
CAIRO AND DEPARTMENT AGREE.) I KNEW, I SAID THAT THE
VIEW IN WASHINGTON WAS UNIVERSAL THAT WE SHOULD SEEK
TO AVOID ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND I WAS SURE THIS
ENTENDED TO ALLOF THE STATES IN THE AREA.

6. I ASKED HIM WHAT THEY HAD GOTTEN FROM THE SOVIETS ON
LEBANON. HE SAID VERY MUCH THE SAME VIEWS AS HE HAD
HEARD FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE HAD NO INDICATION THE
SOVIETS WEREPLAYING AROUND IN LEBANON, BUT SOMEWHAT
IN CONTRAST, HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT ENOUGH OF THE
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ARAB STATES FRIENDLY TO THE SOVIETS WERE PARTICIPATING
SO AS TO MAKE SOVIET INTEREST IN DOING SO DIRECTLY,
LESS THAN INTERESTING TO MOSCOW.
PICKERING

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NNN

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